

**Senate File 508 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 508  
BY TRONE GARRIOTT

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act requiring joint training sessions for nursing home
- 2 inspectors and nursing facilities related to skilled nursing
- 3 and therapy services.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 135C.35C, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **135C.35C Nursing facilities — joint training sessions.**

4 1. The department shall semiannually provide joint training  
5 sessions for inspectors and nursing facilities to review at  
6 least three of the ten most frequently issued federal citations  
7 in the state during the immediately preceding calendar year.  
8 The department shall develop a protocol to identify regional  
9 citation patterns relating to complaints, standards, and outcomes  
10 in the nursing facility inspection process. The department  
11 shall include the state long-term care ombudsman, or the state  
12 long-term care ombudsman's designee, and representatives of  
13 each nursing facility provider association in the state in the  
14 planning process for the joint training sessions.

15 2. The department shall provide at least one joint  
16 training session for inspectors and nursing facilities that  
17 provides information and background relating to the settlement  
18 agreement approved by the court in *Jimmo v. Sebelius*,  
19 No. 5:11-CV-17 (D. Vt.), on January 1, 2013, including that  
20 the settlement agreement clarifies the policy of the federal  
21 centers for Medicare and Medicaid services of the United  
22 States department of health and human services that coverage  
23 of skilled nursing and skilled therapy services in a skilled  
24 nursing facility, a home health setting, and an outpatient  
25 therapy setting does not turn on a beneficiary's potential for  
26 improvement, but rather on the beneficiary's need for skilled  
27 care.

28 EXPLANATION

29 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
30 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

31 This bill requires the department of health and human  
32 services to provide at least one joint training session for  
33 nursing facility inspectors and nursing facilities related to the  
34 settlement agreement approved by the court on January 1, 2013,  
35 in *Jimmo v. Sebelius*, No. 5:11-CV-17 (D. Vt.). The settlement

1 agreement clarifies the policy of the federal centers for  
2 Medicare and Medicaid of the United States department of health  
3 and human services that coverage of skilled nursing and therapy  
4 in a skilled nursing facility, a home health setting, or an  
5 outpatient therapy setting relies on a beneficiary's need for  
6 skilled care, not the beneficiary's potential for improvement.

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